

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AGR-10 H-02 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04

OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 STR-04

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R 151745Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9202

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 1207

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EAGR BB

SUBJ: SUGAR HEARINGS

REF: A) STATE 141876 B) BTN 1136

1. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED INFORMATION REQUESTED REFTEL (A)
FROM BARBADOS SUGAR PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION.

2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS KEYED TO PARA 2 REFTEL (A)
QUESTIONS. (PRICES IN US CURRENCY):

A) 14.73 CENTS PER POUND (EX-MILL)(EXPORT LEVIES, SPECIAL
FUNDS AND HARBOR CHARGES RAISE THIS PRICE TO 15.79 CENTS
PER POUND). FROM 1975 AN ADDITIONAL EXPORT LEVY WILL BE IMPOSED
RAISING EXPORT PRICE TO AN EXCESS OF 16.05 CENTS PER POUND.

B) NO REFINED SUGAR PRODUCED. ALL SUCH SUGAR IMPORTED AND
SOLD AT CURRENT RETAIL PRICE OF 68.5 CENTS PER POUND.

C) UNIT VALUE WAS 12.685 CENTS PER POUND IN 1974.

D) PRODUCTION/EXPORT ESTIMATES:
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YEAR	PRODUCTION	DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION	EXPORTS
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1975	96,889	14,100	82,789
1976	115,000	14,700	100,300
1977	125,000	15,400	109,600
1978	130,000	16,000	114,000
1979	135,000	16,800	118,200
1980	140,000	17,500	122,500

E) IN RECENT YEARS PRODUCTION DECLINED MAINLY BECAUSE OF LOW RAINFALL AND BURNING CANE BEFORE HARVESTING. INDUSTRY IS MAKING EVERY ENDEAVOUR TO RETURN TO GREEN CANE HARVESTING WHICH IT IS ESTIMATED WILL INCREASE PRODUCTION BY ONE-HALF TON SUGAR PER ACRE. SPECIFIC INVESTMENT IS INTRODUCTION OF A MECHANIZED SYSTEM OF HARVESTING USING MACHINERY CAPABLE OF HARVESTING GREEN CANE.

F) OVER PAST 5 YEARS GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AVERAGED 7 PERCENT AND IT IS ESTIMATED THAT GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION WOULD BE ABOVE 5 PERCENT OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS.

G) A LONG TERM COMMITMENT HAS BEEN ENTERED INTO UNDER LOME CONVENTION TO SUPPLY 50,000 TONS SUGAR ANNUALLY TO EEC. INTERVENTION PRICE AT PRESENT \$362.40 PER TON, SUBJECT TO ANNUAL REVIEW.

H) BARBADOS GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTERVENE DIRECTLY IN PRODUCTION OF SUGAR. LOCAL SUGAR RETAIL PRICES ARE CONTROLLED BY GOVERNMENT AND, AS EXPORT LICENCES ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL SUGAR EXPORTED, GOVERNMENT THUS CONTROLS DESTINATIONS, QUANTITIES AND PRICES.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, BB, US
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